CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of administration of gene delivery and gene expression in a patient having or at risk of having a cellular accumulation or a chronic inflammatory disease wherein the disease has an etiology associated with a defective apoptosis-regulating gene or polypeptide, the method comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition which modulates the expression of the apoptosis-regulating gene or polypeptide in an apoptosis defective cell such that the disease is ameliorated.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular accumulation is in a joint.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation is enhancing apoptosis.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the apoptosis enhancing effect is on fibroblast-like synovial cells.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of an autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and a periodontal disease.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the apoptosis gene or polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of p53, ICE, bax, p21waf, and ras.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is an apoptosis polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the apoptosis polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid is present in an expressible genetic construct.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the expressible genetic construct is a viral vector.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the viral vector is a DNA vector.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the DNA vector is an adenovirus vector.